

Blockades Key Messages – February 18, 2022

Opening

- Good afternoon.
- As I had flagged during meetings yesterday, I'll start with a caveat: I respectfully ask that there is no onward sharing of operational details.
- As I mentioned, some of these details may seem innocuous, but they are tied to a larger operational and/or investigative context, including those relates to the temporary Emergencies Act measures.
- This is particularly critical today and into the weekend for Ottawa and the need to avoid public commentary on policing plans and/or response until things are effectively resolved.
- My plan is to keep today's update focussed on Ottawa. I will of course, continue to brief up immediately if the situation changes in any of the other sites across the country. For now, things remain relatively static.

[APG]

Ottawa Update

- As is being detailed in the media, the operation in Ottawa is ongoing. And they are being undertaken and supported by organized and professional personnel across the OPS, OPP, RCMP and several other Ontario and Quebec policing agencies.
- This is one of the largest enforcement operations in Canada outside of the major events like Olympics, G7, etc.
- So what does this look like? Today, there are currently **365** frontline officers.
- This is in addition to **360** officers deployed from an action planning perspective, inclusive of Public Order Units, ERT/TRU and for obstacle removal.
- That brings the total deployment to **725** uniformed officers, with additional officers on their way from other police services across the country.
- And of course there are more personnel – including Federal Public Servants, RCMP civilian members, municipal workers, to name a few.
- The secure perimeter in the downtown core remains from Bronson Avenue to the Canal and from Highway 417 to Parliament Hill, with the more than 100 checkpoints continuing to assist with limiting access to anyone who does not have a lawful reason to be there.
- In addition, in an effort to keep additional protestors from entering the downtown core, numerous exits along highway 417 have been closed. The OPP and Ministry of Transport are also monitoring roads into Ottawa to prevent additional protestors from entering the city.
- Since yesterday's enforcement action began, a number of arrests have taken place.

[APG]

- Three key Freedom Convoy organizers have been arrested - Christopher Barber and Tamara Lich were arrested last night and Pat King was arrested earlier today. All by OPS and all three remain in custody.
- Most of the individuals being arrested today are opting for cooperative arrests.
- Moving into some more specifics on today's operation – there are **seven sites**, all of which police are approaching in the same manner. The cadence is dictated by the speed in which the individuals/trucks can be appropriately processed.
- This morning's operation began with officers dismantling site one, which is located at Nicholas and Waller. **Ten (10) arrests have been made at the site and 8 trucks towed.**
- Officers are now focused on site two, located at Rideau and Sussex. There are approximately 24-30 trucks and 20 vehicles at this site.
- It is a dynamic environment situation with the situation by the minute.
- There OPS is holding media press conference at 330pm this afternoon; the RCMP will be in attendance.

[APG]

Gatineau

- I would add a brief note on the Gatineau side of things.
- Last night the city secured an injunction against the Farfadaa group of approximately 25-30 protestors, which, in late January, set up a makeshift headquarters in a parking lot next to the Chaudière Bridge to supply food and gasoline to the truckers involved in the Ottawa blockade.
- The group were given until 4pm today to leave with their vehicles and personal belonging from the parking lot.
- The group did relocate to a church parking lot; however, as its by a school, they were advised to leave as demonstrating near a school is prohibited under provincial law. They have until 4 pm to leave.
- Next steps are being considered, including to make sure they do not go anywhere else in Ottawa or Gatineau.
- Barriers are also being set up at their original headquarters to ensure they do not return.

[APG]

Emergency Economic Measure Order – Banks

- Moving to the emergency economic measures and with the caveat against onward sharing given the connection to ongoing operations and investigations...
- As of this morning, I can report that **47** entities (**17** individuals and **30** vehicles, including owner/driver information) has been disclosed to:
 - banks;
 - the Canadian Bankers Association;
 - the Investment Industry Regulatory Organization of Canada (IIROC);
 - the Canadian Securities Administration (CSA);
 - Credit Unions; and
 - the Mutual Fund Dealers Association.
- A total of **34** accounts (financial products) have or are about to be frozen. This includes, **31** that have or are about to be frozen and **3** that were proactively frozen.

(For Commissioner info only)

- In addition, the way forward with the banks is as follows:
 - Throughout the EMA and operations, the banks are to keep the accounts frozen until there is conclusion.
 - Banks are to keep track of accounts in question, and if someone contacts the bank to claim they are no longer part of the protest, it will be up to the banks to perform due diligence and assess validity.
 - No numbers are to be made public at any time by Federal partners, or the financial institutions throughout operations.

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